

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 EURE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /141 W

----- 068378

P R 121122Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9263

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, MZ, AO

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR CAETANO

REF: LISBON 879

1. THIRD DAY OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VOTE WAS GENERALLY
UNREMARKABLE, AND ENDED WITH EXPECTED VOTE OF CONFIDENCE
IN PM'S POLICIES. IN SOLEMN STANDING VOTE ALL DEPUTIES
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PRESENT IN CHAMBER (130 OUT OF THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE

148) INDICATED APPROVAL OF AT LEAST WHAT EACH SAW AS PM'S POLICY IN OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. HIGH POINT IN DEBATE WAS CLEARLY SPEECH BY AZOREAN DEPUTY MOTA AMARAL, WHICH PUBLISHED IN ENTIRETY BY LIBERAL WEEKLY EXPRESSO MARCH 9 (REFTEL).

2. COMMENT: CONFIDENCE VOTE IN ASSEMBLY, WHETHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, HAS OF COURSE NO CONSTITUTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE SINCE IN PORTUGUESE SYSTEM PRIME MINISTER SERVES AT PLEASURE OF PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC, WHETHER OR NOT HE HAS CONFIDENCE OF ASSEMBLY. WHILE ASSEMBLY MOTIONS SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT POLICY HAVE BEEN VOTED IN PAST, THIS FIRST TIME IN OUR RECOLLECTION SUCH A MOTION HAS BEEN LINKED DIRECTLY TO A CALL BY THE PRIMIN FOR A DEMONSTRATION OF ASSEMBLY SUPPORT FOR HIS POLICIES. PRIMIN IS BEING CRITICIZED BY RIGHTISTS FOR HAVING USED THIS CONSTITUTIONALLY MEANINGLESS (BUT POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT) DEVICE TO SECURE AN OSTENSIBLE SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR HIM IN CURRENT CRISIS. IN FACT, INDICATIONS

ARE HE WILL FACE MUCH MORE GENUINE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE WHEN WEEKLY CABINET MEETING TAKES PLACE LATER TODAY.
SCOTT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, MZ, AO, (CETANO), (AMARAL, MOTA), (SERVES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005